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CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling a signal processing system, comprising the steps of:
  - 5 receiving from a remote source a plurality of programs and associated program information;
  - selecting a first program from said plurality of programs in response to a user input;
  - inputting rating information for said first selected program; and
  - 10 selecting a second program in response to said input rating information and said associated program information.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said rating information indicates user preference for said first selected program.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said rating information comprising at least a numeric character.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said rating information comprising at least an alphabetic character.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing said rating information in memory.
- 25 6. A method for processing program guide information, comprising the steps of:
  - receiving said program guide information from a remote source;
  - storing said program guide information in memory;
  - obtaining a rating locally for a selected program; and
  - 30 associating said rating with said selected program.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said rating indicates user preference for said selected program.
- 5 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:  
storing said rating with said selected program alone with  
portion of said program guide information associated with said  
selected program.
- 10 9. An apparatus for suggesting a program for viewing, comprising:  
means for receiving from a remote source a plurality of  
programs and associated program information;  
means for selecting a first program from said plurality of  
programs in response to a user input;  
15 means for inputting rating information locally for said first  
selected program; and  
means for selecting a second program based on said input rating  
information and said associated program information.
- 20 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said rating information  
indicates user preference for said first selected program.
11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said rating information  
comprising at least a numeric character.
- 25 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said rating information  
comprising at least an alpha character.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of inputting said rating  
30 information is performed locally.